

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of amendments

Applicant has amended claim 6 and added a new claim (i.e. claim 9). Claims 6 and 9 are now pending and under examination. No new matter has been added.

The amendment to claim 6 is supported by the application as originally filed (see, for example, Figure 21 and its description in the specification). The new claim is also supported by the application (see the first paragraph on page 79 of the specification).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mouri(U.S. Patent 6,010,247), JP 6-235419, or JP 10-318255. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to amended claim 6.

There is a fundamental difference between amended claim 6 and the three cited references. The bearing device of amended claim 6 includes a cylindrical sleeve that is adapted to be installed on a shaft. With the cylindrical sleeve, the bearing device can be sold with the preload set by the bearing manufacturer. The buyer, on the other hand, does not need to set the preload using special equipment. This advantage of the bearing device of amended claim 6 is set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 80 and 81 of the specification.

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Reply dated December 10, 2004

Response to Office Action dated September 10, 2004

In contrast, the cited references disclose only bearings that are mounted directly on a shaft (i.e. without a cylindrical sleeve). As a result, the buyer, not the bearing manufacturer, must install the bearings and set the preload, and *each* buyer must train its workers to install the bearings and set the preload, and must also acquire the special equipment for setting the preload.

For the above-stated reasons, claim 6 is not anticipated by the cited references.

Patentability of new claim

The new claim (i.e. claim 9) is also patentable over the cited references because it depends from claim 6. In addition, the subject matter of the new claim is not disclosed by the cited references, because none of the cited references disclose a cylindrical sleeve that is adapted to be mounted on a shaft.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038920.49554D1).

Respectfully submitted,

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